



**TO:** Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee  
**FROM:** Lauren Verrelli, Parks & Recreation Deputy Director  
**DATE:** May 30, 2025  
**RE:** Department Monthly Summary – May 2025

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### **Aquatics**

The Augustus G. Brown Swimming Pool is currently closed for annual maintenance and is expected to reopen on Monday, June 9. This routine closure allows staff to perform essential upkeep to ensure the facility remains safe, efficient, and ready for summer programming. The Dimond Park Aquatic Center remains open to the public during this time.

Registration for summer swim lesson Sessions 1 and 2 opened on May 9 and quickly filled. Registration for Session 3 will open on June 6 and includes preschool and youth swim lessons at both DPAC and AGB. Session 3 classes will take place in July.

### **Dimond Park Field House**

The Dimond Park Adventure Camp, a partnership between DPAC and DPFH, is in full swing with 15 kids spending the week exploring, swimming, and enjoying activities throughout Dimond Park.

The highly anticipated construction to install an elevator at the Dimond Park Field House will begin on Monday, June 2, improving accessibility for the facility. Construction is expected to continue through August 2025. During this period, the stairs, mezzanine, batting cage, and indoor track will be closed to the public. The Field House will remain open weekdays for *Turf for Tots* only, which will run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday–Friday. The facility will close daily after the program ends and remain closed on weekends. All other programs, including *Open Turf*, will be paused.

### **Treadwell Arena**

Treadwell Arena's cement season is currently underway, offering two popular drop-in programs for all ages and skill levels. Drop-in pickleball is available Monday through Friday, May 19–June 27, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. for just \$5—equipment is provided, and no registration is required. Roller skating is offered Wednesdays and Fridays from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. for \$5 + tax; participants must bring their own skates. Both programs have seen steady community participation.



### **Jensen-Olson Arboretum**

May was a busy month at the Arboretum, starting with a beloved community event—the Mother’s Day Celebration in the garden. Over 300 community members came out to enjoy Juneau’s first sunny day in a while, with live music, refreshments, and self-guided exploration of the grounds.

The Arboretum also hosted several free garden tours. One highlighted the Primula collection as part of the American Primrose Society National Show that was held in Juneau this year. Another was a Native Plant Walk, guiding participants through Southeast Alaska’s native trees and shrubs.

The month wraps up with the Arboretum’s first children’s educational event of the season—*Family Beach Exploration Day*. Children ages 6–12 will participate in hands-on, low-tide programming to learn about the beach habitat in action.



### **Eagle Valley Center**

Kristi West, EVC Coordinator since the facility returned to city management in 2016, retired for the second time from Parks & Recreation this month. We’re incredibly grateful for the care, passion, and hard work Kristi dedicated to the lodge over the past nine years. The EVC wouldn’t be the cherished community space it is today without her.

We're thrilled to welcome Amanda as the new EVC Coordinator and are excited to have her join the Parks & Recreation team!

### **Zach Gordon Youth Center**

Spring is a busy time for Youth Services! We celebrated the proms, promotions, and graduations. We planned summer camps and wrapped up our afterschool programs at TMMS, Cedar Park, and Geneva Woods. We will run a six-week summer program at Cedar Park and Geneva Woods starting mid-June.

The drop-in center continues to have high numbers, with well over 50 youth visiting most days. Shéiyi Xaat Hit had a busy spring on the shelter side and is full on the transitional living side. We are all ready for the sun to come out!

### **Areawide Recreation**

It's been a lively month with movies, bingo, hikes, biking, and more! *Walk Southeast* registration closed on May 8 with a record-breaking 1,664 participants across Southeast Alaska—1,161 of them from Juneau! The walking challenge began on May 1 and will continue throughout the summer.

Our first *WSE Group Hike* was held May 17, with 30 participants completing the 8-mile round trip on the Horse Tram Trail to Boy South Beach. The next group hike is scheduled for Saturday, June 14, at 9 a.m. on the Under Thunder Trail, with a crossover to Dredge Lake.



On May 18, we hosted our first *Movie in the Park + Bingo* event at the Dimond Park Field House. Thanks to our sponsor, Jared Lee, D.D.S., we handed out prizes and gift cards throughout the day, which culminated in two showings of *Sonic the Hedgehog 3*. One showing was a sensory-friendly screening with lights up, sound down, and the freedom to move around—perfect for those who benefit from a relaxed movie environment.





In partnership with the Mendenhall Valley Library, we also joined in the *Bike to the Library* event. Despite a bit of rain, turnout was great! Families enjoyed cotton candy, games, prizes, and a visit from Salty the Sea Otter.

Coming up next: *StoryPath*! This wonderful collaboration with Juneau Public Libraries features three books by Alaskan authors or illustrators, displayed in framed pages along the Seawalk at Overstreet Park. Each book will be featured for one week in June:

- **June 4–10:** *Raven and the Hidden Halibut* – Published by Sealaska Heritage, adapted from a story by the 2015 Tlingit Culture, Language & Literacy students, illustrated by Nick Alan Foote
- **June 11–17:** *Alaska is for the Birds!* – Written by Susan Ewing, illustrated by Evon Zerbetz
- **June 18–24:** *When You See Flukes* – Written by Kathy Hocker and Cheryl Cook, illustrated by Kathy Hocker